

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 17-24, and 27-48 are pending in this application. Claims 14, 15, 20-22, and 27-44 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5 were acknowledged by the Examiner as being in condition for allowance. Claims 6-11, 14, 15, 17-24, and 27-48 are now canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute the subject matter in the present application and in related applications. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5 will be pending and presented for consideration.

Amendments to Specification

Applicants' amendment to paragraph [00029] of the specification presented in the Amendment and Response filed on September 23, 2005, was objected to by the Examiner as introducing new matter. Without acquiescing to the objection and to advance prosecution, Applicants introduce an amendment to paragraph [00029] to remove the alleged new matter and to return the paragraph to its form as originally filed. Applicants submit that this amendment adds no new matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not complying with the written description requirement.

Without acquiescing to the rejection and to advance prosecution, Applicants cancel without prejudice claim 45, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 6-11, 17-19, 23, 24, and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Without acquiescing to the rejection and to advance prosecution, Applicants cancel without prejudice claims 6-11, 17-19, 23, 24, and 45-48, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Okumura *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,777,540, hereinafter "Okumura").

Without acquiescing to the rejection and to advance prosecution, Applicants cancel without prejudice claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 48, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Double Patenting

Claims 6, 17-19, 23 and 24 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-5 and 13 of co-pending Application No. 11/040,071.

Without acquiescing to the rejection and to advance prosecution, Applicants cancel without prejudice claims 6, 17-19, 23 and 24, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Information Disclosure Statement

Before issuance of a Notice of Allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return to the Applicants an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on May 11, 2005. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants enclose a copy of the Form PTO-1449 obtained from the PAIR file for this application which displays a date-in stamp of the USPTO of May 13, 2005, indicating that the Form PTO-1449 was received by the USPTO.

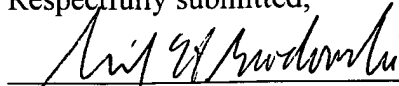
CONCLUSION

Because only claims 1-5 are now pending in this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office issue a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues.

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Respectfully submitted,



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